Deficient rainfall in the States

360. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of deficient rainfall in the country; and

(b) what assistance has been provided to different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Deficiency of rainfall in a large number of States particularly in the month of July has caused wide-spread disruption of agricultural operations during kharif 2002. It is estimated that there is a cumulative loss of 18.72% of food-grains production for the affected States cumulatively.

10.25 lakh MTs of food-grains have been allotted to the affected States, free of cost, for providing relief employment Rs. 1227.29 crores being the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2002-03 has been released. A total of Rs. 1999.14 crores has also been found eligible for assistance subject to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of the States concerned while releasing assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Free transport of water and fodder for Rajasthan has been made.

Meeting of ministers of drought affected States with PM

361. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers and other Ministers of different drought hit States called on the Prime Minister in the first week of August, 2002 to seek adequate Central aid to held fight drought and provide aid and support to the affected farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the aid sought by each States; and

(c) the Central Government's response thereto?